To his Grace, Their Majeſties *High Commiſſioner, and the Right Honourable the Eſtates of* Parliament.

The PETITION of

*The Principalls and Regents of the Univerſity of S. An*drews, *in behalf of the ſaid Univerſity and Colledges thereof.*

Humbly ſheweth,

THat where it is notourly known, that the foreſaid Univerſity, is the firſt and moſt ancient Univerſity within the Kingdom, and was from the beginning endwed with the greateſt Rents and Priviledges, and hath ever ſince been ſo reſpected and cared for; ſo that *King Charles* the firſt, after the ſuppreſſion of Biſhops in the year 1637. did give to the ſaid Univerſity, a Charter of Mortification of the whole Priory and Biſhoprick of St. *Andrews*, with a few Reſerves; which yet would have amounted to at leaſt, One thouſand Pounds *Sterling* yearly, for the uſe thereof; as the Charter dated in the year 1641, (ready to be produced) teſtifies: Which Donative, though ratified in Parliament the third of *November* the ſaid year, and many years poſſeſſed, was not only taken away by the reſtoring of Biſhops in the year 1662. But by the ſaid Reſtitution, the Univerſity was further læſed without Remedy, in as much as, ſeveral Kirks which belonged before to its Patrimony, were upon the account of the ſaid Donative taken from the Univerſity, and Augmentations granted to their Incumbents: And yet when the Donative was taken away, the loſs of the Kirks was not repaired. And for any other Proviſion that was made afterwards, either by the gift of vacant Stipends of five conſiderable Biſhopricks, (whereof to this day, nothing hath been received) or by the King's Bounty and Benevolence out of his own Exchequer, of 200 *lib. Sterling* yearly, (whereof very little hath been received to this day, and the preſent Incumbents have gotten nothing thereof as yet;) and though what is yet gotten of the half months Ceſs, hath made ſome little Stock, yet no ways ſuitable to the neceſſity of that Univerſity; whereby it is but too well known, that this famous Univerſity, once the moſt frequent & moſt convenient for Study, and beſt provided of all the Univerſities, both for variety of Profeſſions, the number of Profeſſors, and a competent allowance for thoſe, is at this day the worſt provided of all the Univerſities: And what for want of publick Profeſſors, and what for want of due Encouragment to thoſe that are, it is like to become deſolate. And albeit it hath pleaſed His Majeſty of late, to give the four Univerſities of the Kingdom, the ſum of 1200 pounds *Sterling* amongſt them, out of the Biſhops Rents, by a Signatour under his Hand, yet the ſame is to Forraign Profeſſors, and hath taken no effect, and is likely to take no effect

until the Signatour be further explained and perfected. And seing, that for the visible Good, both of Church and State, these things deserve a Parliamentary Consideration,

May it therefore please your Grace, and the right Honourable the *Estates* of Parliament to recommend our deplorable condition effectually to his Majesties Bounty, in restoring us to the Bishoprick and Priory of St. *Andrews*, in as full and ample a way as it was granted by his Majestie, in the year 1641, and confirmed by the *Estates* of Parliament *November* thereafter, that this antient and renowned University may be restored to its former Integrity, and provided with Professors, and other founded persons accçording to the foundation, and may no longer continue in such a Necessitous Condition, and the Professors exposed to such Straits, for want of Provision. And may it also please your Grace, and the Honourable Estates of Parliament, that the late Gift of 1200 *lib. Sterling*, may be explained, and applyed to the present Exigence of the Universities.

And your Grace and Lordships Petitioners shall everpray, &c.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND
B
12 SE
1968